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§ 42 . **Note on *Populus balsamifera*, L. var. *candicans*, Gray—**
 At the roadside, about two miles north of the city of Newburgh, on the Hudson, there is a remarkable specimen of the "Balm of Gilead" tree, which from its size, and probably great age, is deserving of being put on record in a botanical journal, and the more so, from the fact that the aged giant has been giving evidence for the last few years that its days are nearly numbered. In regard to this interesting tree (from whence a small collection of houses in the vicinity has received the name of Balmville) Mr. Ruttenber, in his History of the Town of Newburgh, gives the following facts: "Mr. Gilbert Williams, now (1875) in his 80th year, and who became a resident in its vicinity in 1808, relates that when in Nova Scotia (where he resided for nine years prior to 1832) he became acquainted with a John Cosman, who was an apprentice to Wm. Bloomer before the Revolution, who stated that while he was an apprentice he had shod horses under it many a time, and that it was a large tree then. Mr. Williams measured the tree in 1832, and its circumference (two feet from the ground) was 15 feet 2 inches. He measured it again in 1868, and found it to be 19 feet 5 inches, showing its growth to have been 4 feet and 3 inches in thirty-six years. His own recollection of the tree, added to Cosman's, carries it back at least a hundred years." There are, as might be expected of so notable an object, several traditions as to the origin of this tree. One is that the slip from which it grew was brought from New Jersey by a family of early settlers. Mr. Isaac Demott, an aged gentleman, son of one of the first settlers of the locality, and who would be likely to know more about it than any one else, told Mr. Eager, the historian of Orange County, in 1846, that "the tree grew there naturally—that when it had grown large enough for a rail, he cut it down to use it for that purpose—that it sprouted from the root, and he let it grow."

The "Balm of Gilead" is said by Muhlenberg to grow in New York, but Dr. Torrey, in the Flora of the State, says: "I have not found it indigenous within our limits." W. R. G.

The typical form of *P. balsamifera* occurs on the right shore of the Sacandaga River at Hope Centre, Hamilton Co., N. Y. I saw no large trees there, but there are quite a number of small size in the vicinity of a cabin which has been long unoccupied. They seemed to me to have sprung up spontaneously, perhaps suckers from larger trees that had been cut down to make the clearing. W. H. L.

§ 43. **Botanical News.**—In Trimen's *Journal of Botany* for March, Mr. J. G. Baker begins a Synopsis which is designed to embrace descriptions of all the known species of *Isoetes*. In the continuation of his paper "On the Botany of the British Polar Expedition of 1875-6," Mr. Henry C. Hart notes the fact that some plants seem unable to flower in Discovery Bay. Thus *Epilobium latifolium* and *Polygonum viviparum* do not nearly arrive at perfection; *Arenaria Groenlandica*, *Arnica montana*, *Saxifraga rivularis*, and *Cardamine pratensis* make no effort to flower, while others, such as *Saxifraga cernua*, *S. nivalis*, *S. tricuspidata*, and *Festuca brevifolia* blos-